



# EVOLUTION OF A SONERO



# SUMMER YOUTH CONSERVATORY

The Summer Conservatory is designed to create an opportunity for high school students (9th to 12th Grade) to experience and train in a professional setting. Up to 30 students are selected each year. With the Latino Theater Co., students experience and train in a university-style program to obtain the necessary tools for theater production. They attend courses in acting, playwriting, critical studies, directing, dance, design, yoga, voice/speech, theater analysis, and movement. The students also read college-level plays and texts to spark their imagination, enabling them to explore the expanse of their own creativity.



**Summer 2023**  
**June 25th-July 30th**

For more information contact  
**Israel López** at [israel@thelatc.org](mailto:israel@thelatc.org)  
or 213.489.0994

To apply visit  
[latinotheaterco.org/conservatory](http://latinotheaterco.org/conservatory)



# Welcome to **THE LOS ANGELES THEATRE CENTER**

Welcome to the Latino Theater Company's exciting Spring Season of live theater, as we celebrate our 38th year of bringing world-class arts to the Los Angeles community! Our season is filled with joy, contemplation of our future, and a celebration of our history, all while continuing to explore the complexities of our world. Our stages are alive with a dystopian cautionary tale devised by the Latino Theater Company, a joyful commemoration and investigation of life as a Sonero, and two exciting works by an experimental company from Mexico that discover the universal within the rich tapestry of Mexican society.

**Evolution of a Sonero**, a fresh salsa epic, stars and is written by New York City native and celebrated award-winning poet, musician and actor Flaco Navaja, is directed by award-winning visionary Miranda González, and presented by Chicago's UrbanTheatre Company. Flaco, backed by a live, five-piece salsa band, imbues his love letter to the Bronx with the charm, rhythm, soul and improvisational spirit of a true sonero, the leader of a salsa band.

Closing out our Spring Season along with "Evolution of a Sonero" is **Whittier Boulevard**. Created collectively and performed by the Latino Theater Company ensemble, it takes a look into Los Angeles in 2042. Employing a "Chicano Noir" style, we theatrically explore themes of ageism within American society in a not-too-distant totalitarian future. Featuring music, poetry, and MOVEMENT, we comically imagine a city that may come to be. We hope it will make you laugh, think, empathize, and reflect upon where our society could be heading if we lose our civil rights.

We are thrilled to have you here with us, under the spell of live theater; we cannot do it without your support. Join us again in the fall and spread the word to your loved ones about our productions. At The Los Angeles Theatre Center, we celebrate both tradition and innovation and embrace the diversity of people, cultures and ideas, all contributing to a brighter future. The Latino Theater Company has been dedicated to developing plays that reflect the US Latina/o/x experience, speak to the community, and mirror the demographics of our city. We believe that theater has the power to create empathy, educate, and provoke dialogue on the social issues of our time, ultimately inspiring the collective consciousness of our community to create a better tomorrow. Thank you for being a part of our profound impact on the community.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JL Valenzuela'.

**José Luis Valenzuela**

Artistic Director  
Latino Theater Co. at The LATC

# Director's **NOTE.**

If you look up the history of Salsa music you'll find an anthropological explanation on what sounds influenced the genre. If you look up the history of Hip Hop you'll immediately realize that it is described as a movement, political commentary, using descriptive words like "Urban despair" and "former gang members". As a child I grew up with both genres being played loudly by cars with booming speakers and house parties that left their windows open. It was the soundscape of the block, the neighborhood, the whole city, and me. It was the collective heartbeat. For me, Salsa and Hip Hop are two genres that show the evolution of a people through poetic storytelling, just like the play you are about to see. Evolution of a Sonero takes you through a vulnerable and nostalgic journey of survival through poetry and song. This play, this form of storytelling, could be easily categorized as Hip Hop Theater, that wouldn't be wrong. But for us, the ones that lived among these sounds, the ones whose hearts beat with the collective, know that this style of storytelling lives in the inbetween and can never be categorized, only experienced. I hope this story takes you on an indescribable journey where joy and sorrow coexist, and brings you life. I hope you leave this theater wanting to sing and dance a song of hope and celebration. Most of all, I hope the songs you experience through this story stay with you not only in this lifetime, but all those that come after.

¡Hasta la próxima!

## **Miranda González**

Producing Artistic Director  
UrbanTheater Company

## **About UrbanTheater Company**

### **HISTORY**

Since its inception, UrbanTheater Company (UTC), formerly known as Teatro Urbano, has worked with, nurtured, and paved the way for some of Chicago's eminent artists and leaders. Historically run by theater makers born and raised in the city, we are a reflection of Chicago that works, communes, and thrives together.

Now approaching our 18th year of creating theater, we celebrate the partnerships that we've built. Spanning from New York to Puerto Rico to LA, honoring our motto "from the streets to the stage," we challenge the eurocentric lens of what makes great art.

As we move towards the future with the exciting endeavor of opening a new 99-seat theater still nestled in between the iconic Puerto Rican flags on Paseo Boricua, we look forward to investing in our local artists and adding Chicago stories to the national theatrical cannon. We thank LATC for inviting us to their home so we can share the way we tell stories. ¡Wepa!

### **MISSION**

UrbanTheater Company (UTC) is founded by, led by, and for people of color in order to preserve the Puerto Rican and Humboldt Park community voices and celebrate cultural experiences through interdisciplinary art forms. Through fellowship and community, we aim to elevate a diverse and culturally specific collective of Chicago creatives driven to create innovative and accessible theater through a decolonized praxis.

LATINO THEATER COMPANY PRESENTS

# EVOLUTION OF A SONERO

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY

**Flaco Navaja**

THE RAZOR BLADES

<b>Carlos Ordiano</b> .....	Piano
<b>Edward Resto</b> .....	ElectriBass
<b>Juan Moreno</b> .....	Congas
<b>Richard Velzen</b> .....	Trombone
<b>Joey De Leon</b> .....	Timbales
<b>Gener Miguel López Alcantara</b> .....	Timbales (Sub)

SCENIC DESIGN

**Manuel Ortiz**

COSTUME DESIGN

**Sarah Albrecht**

LIGHTING DESIGN

**Ellie Humphrys**

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

**Carlos Ordiano**

CO-PRODUCER

**Iván Vega**

CO-PRODUCER

**Antonio Bruno**

CO-PRODUCER

**Miranda González**

STAGE MANAGER

**Iliana Citlaly Solorzano**

PRODUCTION MANAGER

**May Fei**

DIRECTED BY

**Miranda González**

PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH

**URBAN THEATER COMPANY**



RUNNING TIME

90 minutes

*Evolution of a Sonero will be performed without an intermission.*

**Please Note:** There is no photography or filming of any kind allowed during the performance. Please turn off all electronic devices, including cell phones. Thank you!

**MAY 11 - MAY 28, 2022 THE LOS ANGELES THEATRE CENTER**

As an organization dedicated to providing space for artists from many cultural backgrounds, we want to acknowledge that the building where The LATC is located, in which we gather to share stories, is on the unceded lands of The Gabrieliño-Tongva Nation. We pay our respect to The Gabrieliño-Tongva Nation and other Indigenous caretakers of these lands and waters; and to their elders who have lived here, who live here now, and who will live here in the future. We extend that respect to all Indigenous people who join us for programming at The Los Angeles Theatre Center.





**FLACO NAVAJA**  
(Playwright, Performer)

Flaco Navaja is an award winning poet, writer, singer, actor, and performer who was born and raised in the Bronx, NY. For 25 years he has established himself as a prominent voice of the Puerto Rican Diaspora and has graced acclaimed theater stages such as The Public Theater and Pregones/PRTT. As a poet/spoken word artist he has performed nationally and internationally and has hosted the legendary open mic showcase "All That! Hip Hop Poetry & Jazz" at the famous Nuyorican Poets' Cafe. He's also appeared on four episodes of the HBO series Russell Simmons' "Def Poetry Jam" and had the honor of being a part of the Tony Award winning international tour. As a singer his voice can be heard singing the theme song for PBS kids' animated show Alma's Way; and on the Grammy nominated soundtrack, In The Heights the movie, along with legend Marc Anthony. Both songs were written by Lin-Manuel Miranda. He currently performs with his band, The Razor Blades, his own style of Salsa music where he combines spoken word with old school Salsa. He recently released his first single called Cántale a la Vida, which can be heard on Spotify. Navaja is a SAG member and his tv/film credits include: Alma's Way, Blue Bloods, Gotham, East WillieB, CSI: NY, ROMA: The Silent Film, Love Magical, Gun Hill Road, Fighting. All credits can be viewed on Navaja's IMBD page.

**MIRANDA GONZÁLEZ** (Director, Co-Producer) born and raised in the city of Chicago, a writer, director, producer. She's currently the Producing Artistic Director at UrbanTheater Company (UTC) in Humboldt Park. She was a founding ensemble member of Teatro Luna and has devised and developed plays since 2000. In 2020 she recorded a TEDx talk "The Fear of Decolonization". Her most recent play Back In The Day: an 80's House Music Dancesical had its World Premiere at UrbanTheater Company as a part of CLATA's Destinos Festival. She is currently developing a play that discusses the history of the underground railroad to Mexico

as a part of the Los Angeles Latino Theater Company's Imaginistas cohort. Directing, writing, and script development credits include: Remote Learning Curve by Albany Park Theater Ensemble, Thank You for Coming. Take Care by Stacey Rose at Court Theatre, Ashes of Light by Marco Antonio Rodriguez, La Gringa by Carmen Rivera, Crossed, GL 2010, The North/South Plays a workshop at DCASE; F.O.P and Crime Scene Chicago with Collaboration; and Melissa DuPrey's Sushi-Frito at Free Street Theater. She is also an Executive Producer for the web series 50 Blind Dates with Melissa DuPrey and has written for the web series Ruby's World Yo created by Marilyn Camacho. Recipient of the 3Arts Award and the International Centre for Women Playwrights 50/50 Award. Miranda would like to thank her loving and supportive family. Follow her on IG! @chiblaxican

**CARLOS ORDIANO** (Musical Director/ Pianist) Carlos is thrilled to be at the Latino Theater Co. His Work includes arranging, musical directing, composing and producing. He has helped produce various independent and signed artists. For example La Marisoul (from La Santa Cecilia) and The love notes orchestra, which is Marisoul's debut album as a solo artist, in which the big band captures the latin sound of the 40's. Carlos has played with various artists at Hollywood Bowl and Segerstrom Performing Arts Center. He received his BM from California State University Long Beach, and is a proud recipient of an International Association of Jazz Educators award. Carlos dedicates his performance to his parents. Visit Carlos at carlosordiano.com and follow him on Instagram @carlosordiano

**EDWARD RESTO** (Electric Bass) Edward is happy to be performing at the Latino Theater Co. at The LATC with Flaco Navaja and his Evolution of a Sonero Show. Resto began his professional performance career in New York City as a freelance bassist at age 15. By the age of 17, Resto was asked to perform for the hugely popular Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra "The Machito and Graciela Orchestra" led by Latin Jazz giant Mario Bauza. This experience was like a music academy where he developed the tools needed for high-level performance. By 19 years of age, Resto joined the Eddie Palmieri

Orchestra in 1975 where he toured the world extensively. This exposed Resto to other artists of the world and of the popular "Salsa" genre such as: Willie Colon and Ruben Blades, Hector LaVoe, Tito Puente, Celia Cruz, La Lupe, Bobby Capo, Joe Cuba, Charlie Palmieri, Jose Fajardo and Mongo Santamaria and others. Resto has toured the world extensively and has performed in world-class music festivals and venues. Resto obtained his AA degree in music at LACC, BM degree in Jazz performance and MA degree in Afro Latin Music at CSULA. Resto can be seen in films such as "Blow", "Ed Wood," "Mambo Kings," "Kiss me a Killer," "Salsa," "The Perfect Storm," and has performed for movie, television and commercial soundtracks. Resto is a proud father to his daughter Melina.

**JUAN MORENO** (*Congas*) Juan is very excited to be part of the Evolution of A Sonero band at the Latino Theater Co. at The LATC. Juan was born in Mexico and raised in the US playing locally and nationally. Right after High School he always knew he'd grow up to be a Professional Percussionist, and fortunately he is simply one of a kind at this time. Follow him on instagram @juanmorenopercusion

**RICHARD VELZEN** (*Trombonist*) Richard Velzen is a trombonist and artist who is making his first ever appearance with the Latino Theater Co. at LATC. Living in Los Angeles for most of his life, and hailing from Texas and New York, Richard is most well known for having toured with and recorded for Gloria Trevi and Alejandra Guzmán. His other performance, recording, arranging, or production credits are: Nick Jonas, George Clinton and Parliament, Kanye West Sunday Service and Opera, Ice Cube, Anderson Paak, The Stevie Wonder Band, Tiziano Ferro, Cee Lo Green, La Clave Secreta, Alain Perez, Pedrito Calvo, Adonis Puentes, Tito Nieves, Ismael Miranda, Luisito Carrion, Charlie Aponte, Herman Olivera, N'Klabe, and Los Adolescentes among countless other artists. He has also recorded for movies, TV, and other film scores at Warner Bros, HBO, Sundance, etc.... Richard is currently endorsed by Best American Craftsmen and 64 Audio. Richard dedicates his performance to his late father, a trombonist and scientist.

**JOEY DE LEON JR.** (*Timbales*) Joey De Leon Jr. is one of the most uniquely talented artists of our time. He was born in the Hell's Kitchen section of New York City from a long heritage of musicians, but was primarily raised in the South Bronx and North Bergen, New Jersey. He holds a Bachelors Degree in classical percussion from the prestigious Manhattan School of Music, where he was awarded the highest honor of the school, The George Schick Award for Most Outstanding Musicianship. Joey has performed or recorded with artists of almost every genre from Jazz, Latin, Brazilian, Pop, Film, and Contemporary Classical Music. The diverse list of artists is too long to mention but vary as wide as Michael Buble, Queen Latifah, Al Jarreau, Gilberto Santa Rosa, Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Juan Gabriel, Joan Sebastian, Chante Moore, Jennifer Lopez, Barry Manilow, Bette Midler, Cyndi Lauper and Tan Dun (Academy Award for Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon). He has also recorded for many film and TV scores, most recently recording Slumberland (Jason Momoa), Babylon (Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie), and the DC COMICS smash hit Black Adam featuring Dwayne (The Rock) Johnson in 2022. He also performed the Broadway hit show "Ain't Too Proud," based on the life and times of The Temptations twice at the illustrious Ahmanson Theater in Los Angeles, most recently in December of 2022. Joey is a member of Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band, having won a Grammy for his work on "Life in the Bubble." He also played with conguero Poncho Sanchez and his Latin Jazz Band for over a decade. He played a one-year stint with the legendary trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, having won a Grammy on his album as well. In 2022, Joey recorded for three films that were big hits, Slumberland, Babylon (also acted), and the smash hit Black Adam featuring Dwayne (The Rock) Johnson. Joey also does private teaching, clinics, workshops, and is currently faculty at California Institute of the Arts and Cal State University Los Angeles. He is also a SAG-AFTRA member. His mission in life is to reinforce the power of unconditional love and equality through music.

**GENER MIGUEL LÓPEZ ALCANTARA**

*(Timbales - Sub)* Gener is a Latin/Pop Drummer & Percussionist from Mérida Yucatán, México. He comes from a family background of musicians. In his youth, he dreamed of becoming the drummer/ percussionist he is today. At only 8 years young, he joined his grandfather's orchestra playing Timbales. He understood well that in order to succeed, he needed a professional education in Music. From 1999-2003 he attended College at ENA Santa Clara, Villa Clara, Cuba where he studied classical & popular music from some of the best teachers. Took courses from Carmelo Miranda, Juan Carlos Rojas "El Peje," former drummer of Irakere, and from Jose Luis Quintana "Changuito". Gener was an outstanding student and received his graduate title of Professional Music in 2003 with a high grade-point average. After graduation, he participated and worked in musical theater in Mérida, Yucatán. He also worked along with Pianist Ruben Gonzales Jr. and many other famous Cuban music artists in Mérida, Yucatán. In May of 2008 he made the decision to come to the U.S. to pursue his music career. Recorded 5 CD albums with many artists here in the U.S. for SONOCLIP (Latin pop/rock), TEO FRANCO (Bolero jazz), Grammy Nominated LA CHARANGA CUBANA (Charanga) and many other Mexican Artists. Gener has worked and continues to work with local bands in Jazz Festivals, Cuban American Festivals, Colombian Festivals and Puerto Rican Festivals.

**MANUEL ORTIZ** *(Scenic Design)* Manuel Ortiz is a Chicago native actor, carpenter, designer and educator. He received his BFA in Acting at DePaul University. When he is not building and/or performing on stage, you can find him at home joyfully playing with all 12 of his animal friends (yes, he has pictures). As an artist, he has devoted himself to many artistic mediums such as puppeteering, makeup, lighting, and more. Working in such a prodigiously diverse community of captivating artists, Manny has grown and hopes to continue to collaborate and cultivate communities of inclusion and equity filled with ardent passion for theater.

**ELLIE HUMPHRYS** *(Lighting Design)* Ellie is thrilled to be working with the Latino Theatre Company for her premiere production on the West coast. She graduated in 2012 with a BFA in Lighting Design from The Theatre School at DePaul University and has been working the Chicago theatre scene ever since. Select design credits include: Selections from Metamorphoses (Lookingglass Youth Ensemble), Valhalla (The Plagiarists), Last Night in Karaoke Town (The Factory Theatre), Think Fast, Jordan Chase! (Filament Theatre), Detour Guide (Silk Road Rising/Stage Left Theatre), Hellcab (The Agency Theatre Collective), Belfast Girls (Artemesia Theatre), and Ladies First (Laboratory Dancers). More credits and an online portfolio can be found at [ellielightstheatre.com](http://ellielightstheatre.com)

**IVÁN VEGA** *(UrbanTheater Company Executive Director, Co-Producer)* Iván is thrilled to co-produce Evolution of a Sonero with Latino Theater Co. at The LATC. He is a co-founder of UrbanTheater Company (UTC) and also works with the Puerto Rican Cultural Center in Chicago's Humboldt Park. His acting credits include: Water & Power/UTC; First Class/UTC; Life is a Dream/Vitalist; Cuba and His Teddy Bear/UTC, Broken Thread/UTC; Eulogy for a Small Time Thief/UTC (2007 After Dark Award for Outstanding Performance); and Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams/Victory Gardens. Among his other credits are Short Eyes at Agujion Theater/UTC; Salvador Dali References Make Me Hot/Bailiwick; Perversiones/Aguijón Theater (2004 International Theater Festival in Arequipa/Cusco, Peru); and Anna In The Tropics/Victory Gardens. Some TV credits include Station Eleven (HBO Max), The Chi (Showtime), Proven Innocent (Fox), Chicago Fire (NBC), and Chicago P.D. (NBC). Mr. Vega graduated from Roosevelt University's Theatre Conservatory with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting. He is a 3Arts nominee and a proud member of the executive board of directors of the League of Chicago Theatres. Meli, Eliot, and Ethan, los amo! Follow him @ivanvega on Instagram and Twitter.



**ANTONIO "TONIO" BRUNO** (*UTC Company Manager*) Tonio is thrilled to co-produce *Evolution of a Sonero* with Latino Theater Co. at The LATC. His work includes Production and Sound design credits for the following Chicago theaters: UrbanTheater Company, Teatro Tariatari, The Miracle Center, Windy City Theater, En Las Tablas, Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center, Chicago Dramatist, Adventure Stage Chicago, Theater Wit, Collectivo El Poso, The Massive, Chicago Latino Theater Alliance, Aguijon Theater, Teatro Luna West, and the Howlround Theater Commons. Film Credits include Dreamworks Films' Turbo. You can find his music streaming on all platforms as Dr. Rock Strongo. Tonio is excited to bring UTC's team out to share our Humboldt Park Chicago sabor with the LA audiences.

**ILIANA CITLALY SOLORZANO** (*Stage Manager*) Iliana is thrilled to be working with Latino Theatre Co. for the first time. After graduating from CalState Fullerton with a BA in Theatre and a Specialization in Stage Management, she has been working at theatres such as South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa and The Wayward Artist in Santa Ana. Lately she has been working in educational theatre by stage managing productions and teaching a variety of Production and Design classes at California School of the Arts - San Gabriel Valley, furthering her goal in giving theatre arts exposure to minority and under-privileged youth. She is excited to keep working toward this goal at Latino Theatre Co. and all her future ventures.

**MAY FEI (CONGXIAO FEI)** May Fei is the Production Manager at the Latino Theater Company. She is also a director, actor and writer. Her works at Latino Theater Co. & The LATC include Circle of Imaginistas Reading Series, La Virgen Guadalupe Dios Inantzín, Whittier Boulevard, Melancholia (Tour), (un)documents, Desert Stories For Lost Girls, Letters From The Black Sea. Her directing credits include Utopia Parkway (musical), BFE, Entomb (Shanghai, China), YE-ZI (Shanghai China). Her acting credits include I Come To Say Goodbye (25th International Theater Festival in Mexico), Oedipus Rex (Moscow,

Russia), Macbeth (National Centre for the Performing Arts, China), The Postman (Tianjin, China). Her writing credits include Parallel Love (24-episode TV series), Entomb (Published on Chinese Writer). She received her MFA degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles and Shanghai Theatre Academy, and a Bachelor's Degree of Literature from Shanghai Theatre Academy.

**JOSÉ LUIS VALENZUELA** (Artistic Director) José Luis Valenzuela is the Artistic Director of the Latino Theater Company (LTC), and The Los Angeles Theatre Center (LATC) and is also an Emeritus Distinguished Professor at UCLA's School of Theater, Film & Television. Valenzuela is an award-winning theater director, and has been a visionary and an advocate for Chicana/Latina Theater for over 30 years. He has directed critically acclaimed productions at major theaters both nationally and internationally including the LATC where he created the Latino Theatre Lab in 1985 and the Mark Taper Forum where he established the Latino Theater Initiative in 1991. He has directed *Whittier Boulevard*, *Sleep with the Angels*, *The Mother of Henry*, *La Olla*, *Solitude*, *Premeditation*, *Dementia*, and *A Mexican Trilogy* for the Latino Theater Company. Most recently he also directed *Macbeth* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Karen Zacarias' *Destiny of Desire* at Arena Stage, South Coast Rep, The Goodman Theatre, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Cincinnati Playhouse. His international directing credits include Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* at the Norland Theatre in Norway and Manuel Puig's *Kiss of the Spider Woman* at the National Theatre of Norway. He produced the national Encuentro Festival in 2014, the international Encuentro de las Americas in 2017, and the national Re-Encuentro in 2021.

## **THANK YOU!**

**Mike Oquendo, The Chicago Razor Blades: Darwin Noguera, Nathan Perez, Brian E. Rivera, Javier Quintana-Ocasio, and Freddy Quintero Kelly, Carlos Cuevas, Ángel Meléndez, Pregones/PRTT, Vanessa D. Rodriguez, Mikaila Publes, Cecilie Keenan.**

# Thank You!

Circles often symbolize harmony, inclusion, and unity. The circle was at the basis of the invention of the wheel, which brought about movement.

Our Circle of Friends donors play an active role in bringing theater to Los Angeles that reflects the US Latina/o/x experience and the demographics of the city. We gratefully acknowledge their generous support (2018-present).

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Michael Sloane and Tony Laanan  
Jeanne Smith  
Jerry Tello  
Eileen T'Kaye & David Bischoff  
Mark and Collene Torres  
Miguel Torres  
Tim Toyama  
Susana Tubert  
Marcia Turner  
David Valdez  
Kinan Valdez  
Mark Valdez  
Debra Valenzuela  
Rebecca Van JuraJane Vargas  
Marie-Reine Velez  
Juan Villegas  
Silvia Viramontes  
Michael Wank  
Laurie and Stan Whitcomb  
Karen Zacarias  
Martin Zitter  
Anonymous

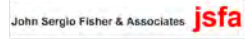


**WHEN OUR CIRCLE OF FRIENDS COMES TOGETHER, GREAT THINGS HAPPEN!  
YOUR FRIENDS AWAIT! – NO AUDITIONS NECESSARY!**

Did you know that nearly 40% of Latino Theater Company's operating budget comes from the generous support of individuals like you? Please consider entering our Circle of Friends and help us move forward in furthering our artistic mission.

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# WE ARE *Grateful* TO OUR SPONSORS





# WHITTIER BOULEVARD

WRITTEN BY THE LATINO THEATER COMPANY DIRECTED BY JOSÉ LUIS VALENZUELA

**"EXCEPTIONAL"**  
- LA THEATRE BITES

**"TOP TEN RECOMMENDED"**  
- STAGE RAW

**"A TRIUMPH"**  
- ARTS BEAT LA

**"STUNNING"**  
- STAGE RAW

**"FUN"**  
- ANTHONY BYRNES

**"EXCELLENT"**  
- Karen Salkin, It's Not About Me

**CLOSES MAY 28**

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# About **THE LATINO THEATER COMPANY**

**“The Latino Theater Company is among America’s great ensembles.”** American Theater Magazine, 2015

The Latino Theater Company celebrates 38 years of commitment to creating exciting, thought-provoking theater for the LA community. Founded at the LATC in 1985 with Artistic Director José Luis Valenzuela, the company has significantly contributed to the advancement of U.S. Latino Theater. In 2006 the City of Los Angeles awarded LTC with a 20-year lease to operate the Los Angeles Theatre Center, which was extended in 2021 for another 25 years to 2056. At the Latino Theater Co. our mission is to provide a world-class arts center for those pursuing artistic excellence; a laboratory where both tradition and innovation are honored and honed; a place where the convergence of people, cultures, and ideas contribute to the future. We are dedicated to contributing new stories to the American theater repertoire and increasing opportunities in theater for underserved communities. As the nation’s largest theater company serving Latinx audiences, we produce work by local playwrights and highlight new voices within the Latinx, First Nation, Black, Asian American, Jewish American and LGBTQ+ communities. Located in Downtown Los Angeles, our world-class arts complex has 80,000 square feet of performance, office and gallery space.

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

**José Luis Valenzuela**, President

**Diane G. Medina**, Chairwoman

**Sandra Ortiz**, Vice-Chair

**Donald P. Baker**, Secretary

**Geoffrey Rivas**, Treasurer

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**Marcelo Gaete-Tapia**

**Sandra Hahn**

**Dolores Leal**

**Fidel Vargas**

### **CHAIR EMERITUS**

**Moctesuma Esparza**

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**Sal Lopez**

**Lucy Rodriguez**

**David Valdés**

**Susan Clark**

### **IN MEMORIAM**

**Lupe Ontiveros**

**Walter F. Ulloa**

## LATINO THEATER COMPANY STAFF

**José Luis Valenzuela**  
*Artistic Director*

**Diane Medina**  
*Managing Director*

**Evelina Fernández**  
*Associate Artistic Director*

**Sal Lopez**  
*Associate Artistic Director*

**Geoffrey Rivas**  
*Associate Artistic Director*

**Lucy Rodriguez**  
*Associate Artistic Director*

*Accounting/Administration*  
**Lisa Zurita**

*Technical & Facilities*  
**Wayne Nakasone**  
**Ivan Robles**

*Grants Management*  
**Angela Scott**  
**Kate Holguin**

*National Latinx Theater Initiative*  
**Olga Garay-English**

*Education Programs*  
**Israel López**

*Administrative Support/  
Front of House*  
**Maricela Sahagun**

*Theater Rental/Executive Support*  
**Michelle Garcia-Tapia**

*Production Management/  
Development/Research*  
**Nathan Edelman**  
**May Fei**

*Marketing & Publicity*  
**Xavi Moreno**  
**Lucy Pollak**

*Custodial*  
**Martha Hernandez**  
**Federico Saquic**

### CONTACT

Latino Theater Company at  
The Los Angeles Theatre Center  
514 S. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

213-489-0994

Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Please visit [latinotheaterco.org](http://latinotheaterco.org) for hours, parking and more information.

### BOX OFFICE

The Box Office window is open one hour before curtain time for same day sales and closes 30 minutes after. Tickets may be purchased 24/7 online via [latinotheaterco.org/tickets](http://latinotheaterco.org/tickets)

### LATE SEATING

We strongly encourage you to arrive at least an hour prior to curtain. This will provide you with plenty of time to park your vehicle and pick up your tickets without feeling rushed. If you find yourself with more time, you may visit our concessions for a drink, a small snack or stop by one of our neighboring restaurants and bars.

We try our best to begin all performances on time. Unfortunately, some performances have no late seating. If you have to leave a show before its end, please do so between program pauses or intermission.

### NO PHOTOGRAPHY

There is no photography or filming of any kind allowed during the performance. Please turn off all electronic devices, including cell phones.

The Latino Theater Company is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

The Los Angeles Theatre Center is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department and operated by the Latino Theater Company.



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